

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS KUWAIT 000462

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

LONDON FOR TSOU  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOR IE  
EB/ESC/IEC FOR GALLOGLY, DOWDY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ENRG](#) [EPET](#) [ECON](#) [BEXP](#) [KU](#) [OIL](#) [SECTOR](#)

SUBJECT: SOTU REACTION: KUWAIT OIL ANALYST COMMENTS ON  
"ADDICTION TO OIL"

This cable is sensitive but unclassified; please protect accordingly. Not for Internet distribution.

11. (SBU) Econ Officer met February 8 with Kamel Harami, a well-connected oil analyst and former KPC employee, to discuss the recent State of the Union (SOTU) speech, and specifically the President's statements about oil and energy issues. Harami asked Econ Officer to further explain the "addiction to oil" comment and the Advanced Energy Initiative (AEI) from the President's address. He said that there is significant interest here in Kuwait and throughout the region in this statement, and said that he is getting many inquiries from the press to offer his comments on this. He said that his and others' concern is that, if there is a plan to phase out 75% of U.S. reliance on Middle Eastern oil, this appears to contradict recent calls by the U.S. for increased investment and expansion of production capacity by OPEC members.

12. (SBU) Econ Officer referred Harami to the specific language in the SOTU speech and the White House press release on the AEI, and said that further clarification was expected from Washington soon. During the meeting, satellite TV channel CNBC Arabic called Harami on his mobile phone for a live interview on this topic. His comments to them were along the lines of "let's wait for more clarification", but he emphasized to Econ Officer after the interview that there is a pressing need for the USG to clarify this statement in light of its apparent contradiction to earlier statements urging increasing production in the region.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Visit Embassy Kuwait's Classified Website:  
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/kuwait/>  
\*\*\*\*\*  
LeBaron